

Lung Cancer Fact Sheet

2021

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is not a single disease; rather it is a group of cancers that originate in the lung and associated tissues. Lung cancers are divided into three major types: small cell lung cancer (SCLC), non-small lung cancer (NSCLC) and lung carcinoid tumors. Lung cancer accounts for more deaths than any other cancer in men and women.¹

In Indiana, during 2017, 5,566 residents were diagnosed with invasive lung cancer and 3,701 died as a result of this disease (Table 1).

Table 1. Burden of Invasive Lung Cancer—Indiana, 2013–2017*

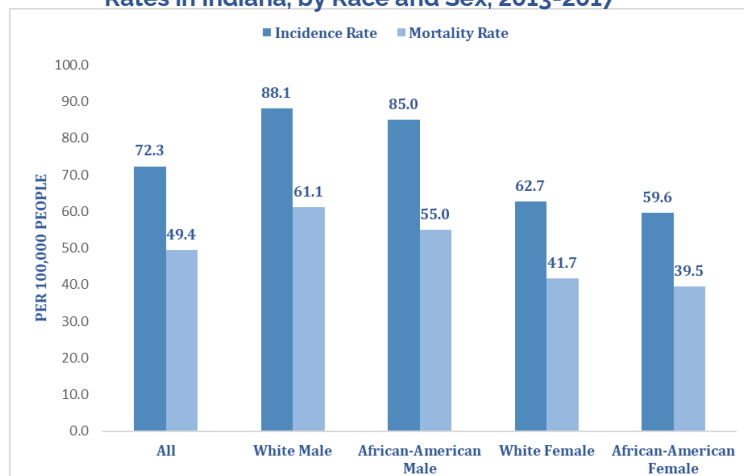
	Average number of cases per year (2013–2017)	Rate per 100,000 people (2013–2017)	Number of cases (2017)	Rate per 100,000 people (2017)
Indiana Incidence	5,614	72.3	5,566	68.5
Indiana Deaths	3,846	49.4	3,701	45.8

*Age-adjusted to the US 2000 Standard Population
Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry

Disparities

Disparities between lung cancer incidence and mortality rates exist between genders and races. In Indiana, during 2013–2017, white and African American males had significantly higher incidence and mortality rates when compared to females of the same race. In addition, African American males had higher mortality rates when compared to white males (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Age-adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates in Indiana, by Race and Sex, 2013–2017*



*Age-adjusted to the US 2000 Standard Population.

Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry

Fast Facts

- Overall, lung cancer mortality rates are about three times higher for both male and female smokers than for people who never smoked.³
- Exposure to radon gas is estimated to be the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.¹
- Cigarette smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer. In the United States, cigarette smoking is linked to about 80% to 90% of lung cancer deaths.⁴
- In Indiana during 2019, 19.1 percent of adults reported being current smokers.⁵

Common Signs and Symptoms of Lung Cancer¹

- A cough that does not go away or gets worse.
- Coughing up blood or sputum streaked with blood.
- Chest pain that is worse with deep breathing, coughing or laughing.
- Voice changes or hoarseness.
- Weight loss and loss of appetite.
- Shortness of breath or feeling tired or weak.

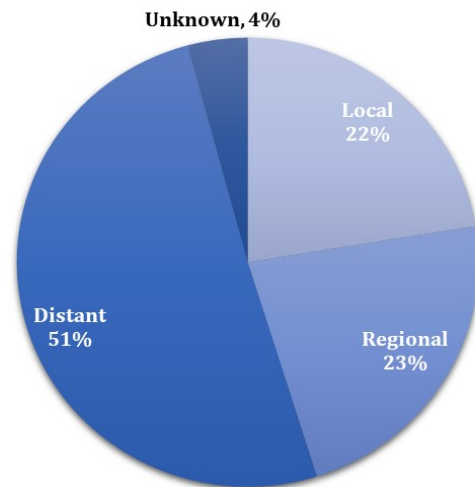
What Factors Influence Lung Cancer Survival?

- Lung cancer is often diagnosed at a later stage, which negatively impacts a person's odds of survival. The five-year survival rate is highest (55 percent) if the lung cancer is diagnosed when it is confined entirely within the lung (i.e., localized).¹ However, in Indiana, during 2013-2017, only 22.4 percent of lung cancers were diagnosed during this stage (Figure 2).
- The five-year survival rate is different for SCLC, NSCLC and lung carcinoid tumor. For SCLC, the five-year survival rate is 7 percent. The five-year survival rate for NSCLC is higher at 21 percent.¹ According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate for lung carcinoid tumor varies by type and stage. In general, the five-year survival rate ranges from 93 percent for Stage I diagnoses to 57 percent for Stage IV diagnoses.
- Treatment options are determined by the type (SCLC, NSCLC or lung carcinoid tumor) and stage of cancer and include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and targeted therapies. For localized cancers, surgery is usually the treatment of choice.¹

Figure 2. Percent of Lung Cancer Cases Diagnosed During Each Stage*—Indiana, 2013–2017

*Note: Excludes in situ

Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry



Can Lung Cancer Be Detected Early?

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography in adults aged 55 to 80 years who have a 30-pack-per-year smoking history and currently smoke, or who have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years, or develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.

Get Involved: Join the Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC)

- The ICC is a statewide network of over 100 agencies, including the Indiana State Department of Health.
- ICC seeks to reduce the cancer burden in Indiana through the development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive plan that addresses cancer across the continuum .
- Become a member at www.IndianaCancer.org .

References

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2017. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2016.
2. Indiana State Cancer Registry.
3. CDC, Tobacco-Related Mortality. CDC; 2016.
4. CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic_info/risk_factors.htm
5. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>

For additional information on the impact of cancer in Indiana, please visit:
in.gov/health

